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P 121822Z DEC 07
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3477
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
RUEHMR/AMEMBASSY MASERU 3878

UNCLAS MASERU 000630

SIPDIS

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DEPT ALSO FOR AF/S, AF/RSA;
GABARONE FOR RSO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [LT](#)

SUBJECT: LESOTHO: OPPOSITION CALLS OFF LIGHTLY OBSERVED GENERAL
STRIKE

REF: MASERU 628

11. On December 12, the second day of an opposition-led general strike (reftel), Lesotho's five major opposition parties held a press conference to announce the suspension of the "stay-away" and launch further complaints against the Government of Lesotho.

All Basotho Convention Leader Thomas Thabane spoke for the five major opposition political parties at the event at which he denounced the GOL's removal from the airwaves of "People's Choice" FM, an independent radio station, during the strike. He named certain local retailers and taxi companies who he claimed violated the strike and called for boycott of their services. Thabane also stated that the general strike would resume in January, and that further unspecified "mass actions" would take place at that time.

12. COMMENT: Meanwhile, normalcy returned to Maseru's bustling streets on December 12. Despite the fact that the opposition "stay-away" remained in effect, commerce largely resumed. The opposition strike, designed to demonstrate the opposition's political muscle, disrupted public transportation over the course of two days -- but was largely a bust. END COMMENT.

MURPHY